



# **Influencing Effective National policy: Lessons from Europe**

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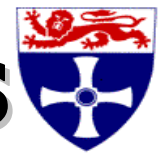
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**Report webpage:**

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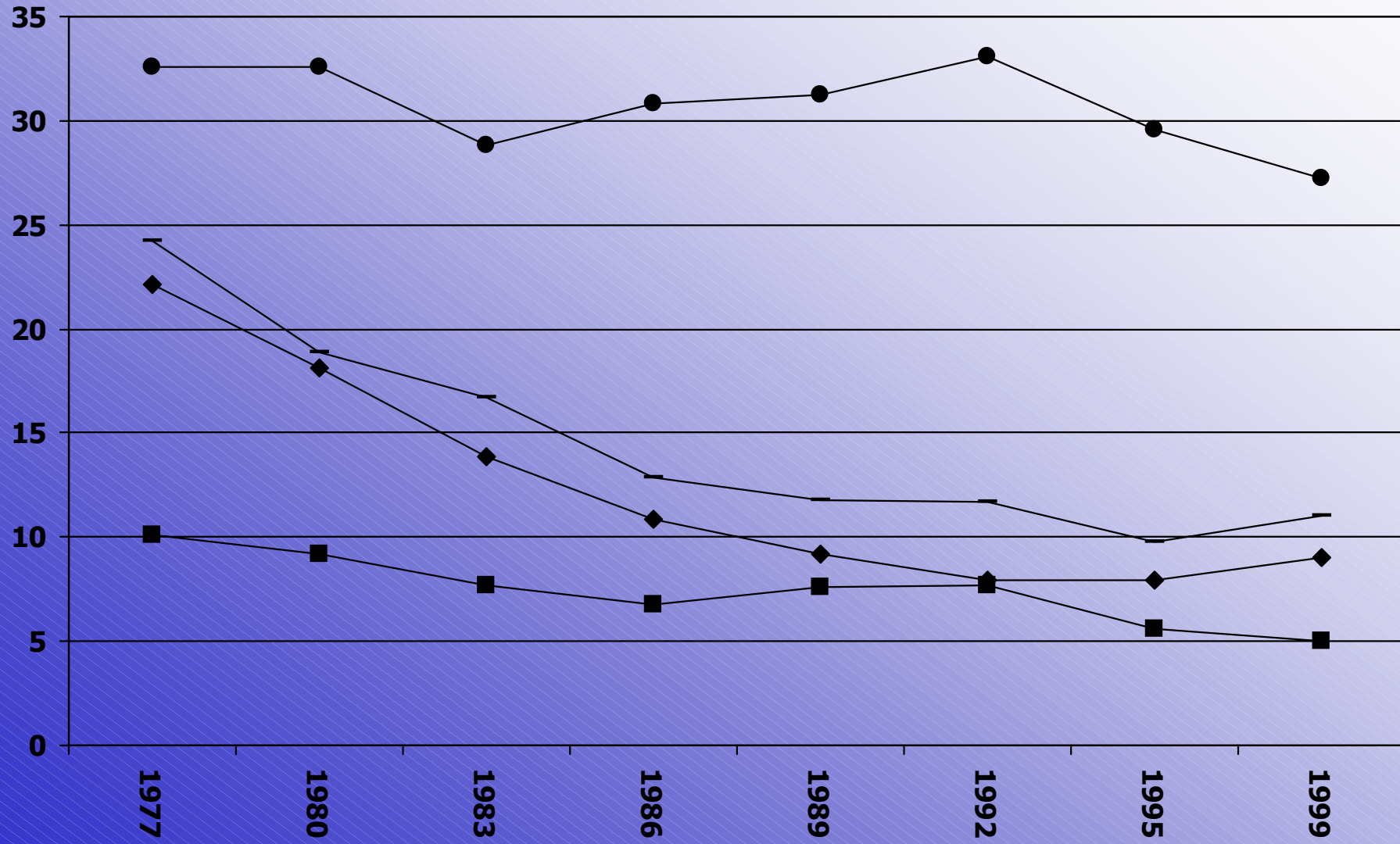
# **Three Key Pre-requisites to contraceptive use**

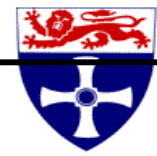
- **Sex education: knowledge and skills**
- **Sexual health: access to services**
- **Education: one potential source of motivation**

# Birth rate per 1000 women aged 15-19 trend for 4 European countries, 1977-1999

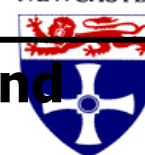


● Scotland — Finland ◆ France ■ Netherlands





<b>Sex education</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
Access - sex education	9	4	8	3
Socio-sexual attitudes	9	4	9	4
Public climate - sex education	9	5	9	5
Provision amount	Comprehensive	Limited	Comprehensive	Limited
Responsibility for policy development	School, government, municipality	School	School	School

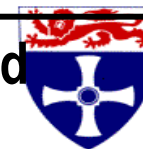


<b>Sex education</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
<b>Curriculum location</b>	Biology, Health & Family Ed	Biology	Biology, Social care	Biology, PSE
<b>Teaching environment</b>	Mixed + Single	Mixed	Mixed (some single)	Mixed
<b>Teacher training</b>	Subject pre-service Voluntary In-service	Subject pre-service Voluntary In-service	Subject pre-service Voluntary In-service	Subject pre-service Voluntary In-service
<b>Teaching Methods</b>	Didactic + Active-learning	Primarily Didactic	Didactic, learning-based, role-play	Primarily Didactic
<b>Content</b>	Biological, Social/ethical Sexual health + Positive	Biological, HIV/AIDS + Negative	Biological, Social/ethical, Sexual health + Positive	Biological, HIV/AIDS, Limited on Relationships + Negative
<b>Focus on young men specifically</b>	yes	no	yes	no
<b>Use of sexual health experts</b>	Occasional	Occasional	Common	Occasional

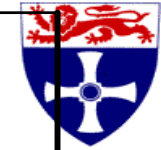
## **Additional requirements for young people's access to sexual health services**

- **Geographical location of a service and 'visibility' of a service**
- **Suitable opening times**
- **Confidential services**
- **Informal and user-friendly services**
- **Professional attitudes and linguistics**
- **Services which were inclusive and recognised the needs of young men.**





<b>Sexual health</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
<b>Availability of general public primary care services</b>	Wide access	Wide access	Wide access	Wide access
<b>Availability if youth specific clinics</b>	Being developed	Limited	Well developed	Being developed
<b>On-site school nurse clinic provision</b>	Universal	None	None	Very limited
<b>Confidentiality to under 18s</b>	Guaranteed	Guaranteed except abortion	Guaranteed	Meant to be Guaranteed
<b>Cost of contraceptives</b>	Some free/ low	Some free/ low	Some free/ low	Some free/ low



<b>Sexual health</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
<b>Condom availability</b>	Wide	Wide	Wide	Wide
<b>Condom Advertising on TV</b>	Yes (1 <sup>st</sup> in mid-1980s)	Yes (1 <sup>st</sup> in 1987)	Yes (1 <sup>st</sup> in 1969)	Yes (1 <sup>st</sup> in 1987)
<b>Legal age of consent</b>	16 (14-15 not prosecutable)	16	16 (in practice 12)	16
<b>Reported contraceptive use at 1st intercourse</b>	<85%	<90%	<85%	45-55%
<b>Estimated average age of first intercourse</b>	16.5	16 (m) 17(f)	17.5	16.5



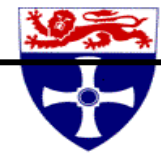
# **Associations between higher levels of education and:**

- **Higher levels of sexual knowledge**
- **Higher age of first intercourse**
- **More effective contraceptive efficiency**
- **Abortion as the more common outcome of pregnancy**
- **A higher age of first birth and smaller number of children over a woman's fertile life course**

# **Relationships between a high % of 16-18 year olds continuing in education or training and :**



- **Significantly lower rates of teenage pregnancy**
- **Significantly higher rates of contraceptive use amongst young people at first intercourse**
- **Significantly higher proportions of abortion to birth as an outcome of pregnancy**
- **Significantly higher age of first birth**



<b>Education</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>The Netherlands</b>	<b>Scotland</b>
<b>Age at end of compulsory schooling</b>	16	15	17(18)	16
<b>Age range of upper secondary</b>	16-19	16-18/19	16-17(18)	16-17(18)
<b>Annual Proportion remaining in school post-16</b>	<90%	<90%	<85%	<55%
<b>Access to vocational education at upper secondary</b>	High	High	High	Being developed, limited. Stigmatised.



# **Key message for the strategy**

- **Holistic**
- **Awareness of the 'wider picture' of young people's lives**
- **Pragmatic**
- **Positive**
- **Young people orientated**